



MILWAUKEE NUMISMATIC NEWS

November 2018 – The next regular MNS meeting will be held on November 15, 2018, 7 PM at our usual location in the Mayfair Mall Community Room, lower level. This is semi-annual auction night so see the list of auction offerings elsewhere in this issue.

President: Justin Perrault
Secretary: James Kubley
Sgt. at Arms: Dave Herrewig
Trustee '17-'19: Dave Hunsicker
Librarian: Justin Perrault

Vice President: Jim Heinrich
Treasurer: John Bleidorn
Trustee '16-'18: Gary Bieringer
Trustee '18-'20: Tom Dallmann
Newsletter editor: Leon Saryan

New Mailing address: c/o PO Box 26886, Wauwatosa, WI 53226-0886

Newsletter material: c/o PO Box 210313, Milwaukee, WI 53221-8006 LASaryanphd@gmail.com

Web Site Address: www.milwaukeeenumismaticsociety.com

The Milwaukee Numismatic Society, founded in 1934, is the oldest and largest organization in Milwaukee devoted to the study of money. Meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month in the Community Room on the lower level of Mayfair Mall (W. North Avenue at N. Mayfair Road). The annual MNS coin show is held in October.

November Coin of the Month: This month we offer a 2005-S silver proof dime NGC certified ultra cameo proof 69. This rare and fantastic coin can join your collection for a starting bid of only \$12, a fraction of the certification cost. Bid high for this neat item.



November 2018 MNS President's Message

I would like to thank Jim H. once again for organizing another wonderful banquet at Alioto's. It was great to spend a more casual evening with fellow club members, many of which have worked so hard to make our coin show a success. I hope that everyone enjoyed themselves and the very interesting presentation that was put on by our guest speaker, Amanda Seligman, professor of history at UWM.

Our officer election slate seems to be pretty well locked up for the 2019 membership year. The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Sgt. at Arms are all uncontested, and have the same current candidates running to keep those positions filled. For the trustee opening, Lee H. has agreed to run for that position. So as of now that is our slate, and the election will be held at the December meeting.

Please remember that the November meeting will be host to our autumn auction. The list of items up for bids can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Please be prepared and come ready to bid! I hope that everyone gets what they want and are able to add a few new things of interest to their collection.

With the recent lottery well over a billion dollars I began to think how I could have a little fun with this, without being stuck with a worthless piece of paper at the end. So instead, I went to my local bank and purchased \$10 worth of rolled cents to see what I might find. Best case scenario, a 1909-S VDB or a Civil War token. Plus I figured, no matter what, I would at least have a tangible bit of currency in the end. In what turned out to be an interesting experiment, in the end I walked away with a total of only three wheat pennies dated 1929, 1951D, and 1955D (unfortunately not a double die!). I also found four Canadian pennies and even one 2017P cent. In the end I did not come out a winner, probably even lost a bit with those Canadian cents, but at least I had a fun time searching through some coins. Keep looking, you still never know what you might find out there!

As you can see, our calendar has been updated for the coming year. There are not a whole lot of coin shows to get us through the winter months, but come spring we should be ready and raring to go again. As of programming during our monthly meetings, please think about what you would like to see scheduled and let me know. Also, please let me know if you are able to bring refreshments for any of the open months. Your assistance is always kindly appreciated by your fellow club members!

Hard to believe I am typing this, but....Have a great Thanksgiving!

Happy Collecting,
Justin J. Perrault
masters1122@yahoo.com
262.613.9996

Thank you!!

The Boy Scout merit badge clinic is one of the club's big projects. I'd like to thank members Bruce Benoit, David Herrewig, and Darrell Luedtke, for their donations of coins and tokens that will be given to the scouts in their "goody" bags, and Bob's Ok Coins for the donation of coin folders. Donations of inexpensive coins are always welcome, and it would be especially helpful if they are already mounted in 2x2 cardboard flips. (I hope I didn't miss any of our recent donors!)

*With gratitude,
Leon Saryan, Scout Clinic Coordinator*

MN\$ 2018-19

Schedule

Monthly meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Room in the lower level of Mayfair Mall. Visitors interested in numismatics are welcome.

Monthly meeting programs

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Nov 15: | Autumn Auction; Election Slate |
| Dec 20: | Holiday Party; Officer Elections |
| Jan 17: | Officer Inductions |
| Feb 21: | OPEN |
| March 21: | OPEN |
| April 18: | OPEN |
| May 16: | Spring Auction |
| June 20: | OPEN |
| July 18: | No Meeting? |
| Aug 15: | Expanded Show and Tell |
| Sept 19: | OPEN |
| Oct 17: | Raffle Prize Drawing |
| Nov 21: | Autumn Auction; Election Slate |
| Dec 19: | Holiday Party; Officer Elections |

PLEASE NOTE:

MNS is a volunteer organization. We always need new and interesting programs, activities, helpers to work at events, and someone to bring refreshments for the meetings. We are also looking for ideas for club outings. MNS will reimburse refreshment expenses up to \$60. To volunteer, please contact Pres. Justin Perrault at 262.613.9996 or VP Jim Heinrich at 262.796.1814. Thanks to everyone who has stepped up by volunteering their time and talent to make this club a success.

2019 Numismatic Events

| | |
|--------------|--|
| February 10: | Manitowoc Coin Show 3627 Hwy. CR, Manitowoc 9 AM-3 PM, free admission |
| February 17: | Wisconsin Coin Expo Oshkosh Convention Center 2 N. Main St. 9 AM-4 PM, free admission |
| March 3: | Rockford, IL Coin Show Forest Hill Lodge 1601 W. Lane Rd., Loves Park 9 AM-3 PM |
| March 16/17: | NOW Madison Coin Club Show Sheraton Hotel 706 John Nolan Dr., Madison 9 AM-4 PM |
| April 7: | Fox Valley Coin Show Darboy Club, Appleton N9695 County Rd. N 9 AM-4 PM, free admission |
| April 12-13: | SSCC Show, Crown Plaza 6401 S. 13 th St. |
| April 28: | NOW Nicolet Coin Club Show 1603 Holmgren Way, GB 9 AM-3 PM, free admission |

Refreshment Schedule

| | |
|-------|---------------|
| Nov: | Jim H. |
| Dec: | Holiday Party |
| Jan: | OPEN |
| Feb: | OPEN |
| Mar: | OPEN |
| Apr: | OPEN |
| May: | OPEN |
| Jun: | OPEN |
| Jul: | NO MEETING? |
| Aug: | Justin P. |
| Sept: | OPEN |
| Oct: | OPEN |

Annual Dues

Dues for 2019 are \$10. Please pay Leon A. at the next meeting, or they may be mailed to **MNS, PO Box 26886, Wauwatosa, WI 53226-0886**. Thanks to those who have paid.

Milwaukee Numismatic Society

Minutes

October 18, 2018

President Justin Perrault called the 994th meeting of the MNS to order at 7:02pm. There were 27 members and no guests in attendance. The president led the club in the pledge of allegiance. Door prizes were won by Norm V. Bruce B, Gary B, Paul K, James K, Tom K, Tom R, Justin P, Roseanne M, Robert M, Steve J, Dave H, Leon A, Robin R, and Dave H.

Raffle Ticket Winners: Mary Y, Jeff P, Robert R, Charlene H, Donald B, Millie D, Dan M, Don C, Tony B, Tony B, Sharon B, Lee H, Mary R, Chris K, Bill L, Jerome S, Yvonne B, Don M, Tom D, Michael Z, Jessica M, Howard T, Robin R, Glenn J, Sharon B, Nancy T, Kathy B, Walter T, Randy H, Tom C, Charlene H, and Don M.

Future Meeting Location: The club has decided to continue meeting at Mayfair Mall.

Coin of the Month: Steve J won the coin of the month, a certified BU 2010 Abraham Lincoln presidential dollar with a winning bid of \$21.00.

Treasurer's Report: John B reported that September showed net receipts of \$12.00 and \$184.71 in net disbursements for a negative net cash flow of \$172.71

Correspondence: The Numismatist.

Elections Slate: All of the current board members are willing to run for the same positions for 2019. However, we do have one Trustee position open. If anyone else is interested in a running for a position on the board or for Trustee then please let the nominating committee know by the beginning of November.

Vice President Report: The Club's holiday party will be in December.

Annual Banquet: The Club's annual banquet is October 27, 2018 at Alioto's Restaurant in Wauwatosa. Cocktail hour starts at 6:00 PM and Dinner is served at 6:30 PM. If a club member worked three or more hours at the show then your meal is complimentary. You may decide what entree you would like the day of the banquet but please let Jim H know at least 5 days before the banquet if you will be attending or not.

Newsletter: Newsletter articles are always appreciated. Brief reminiscences of great circulation finds, local experiences, and etc. are appreciated additions. We will be having an auction at our November meeting. Please notify Leon S by the beginning of November if you would like to have an item in the auction.

Mailbox: The club has a new mailbox: P.O. Box 26886, Wauwatosa, WI 53226-0886

Milwaukee Numismatic Society Coin Show: The Club's annual show was a big success. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the show possible. We had 428 paid attendees but we are estimating around 500 attendees. The dealers were all please with the show. The next show will be October 6, 2019.

Show & Tell: Robert - Space Medals, Bruce - Two Renaissance Venetian Coins, Leon S - New Armenian Medal, Jordan - British Commemorative World War I coins, James K - Coin Show Find, Tom R - George Weber Brewer advertisement

The meeting was informally adjourned at 8:36 pm by President Perrault.

Respectfully submitted by James Kubley

A TOKEN OF TRAGEDY

Tom Casper

Milwaukee, Wisconsin was a wheat-trading center in the 1850's. It came partly from its location to the grain fields and the honesty in weighing and grading wheat. Daniel Newhall, a capitalist and civic leader, was one of the principal wheat speculators. By the time he was thirty-five, he was the nation's largest dealer in wheat.

In 1857 Newhall erected an elegant six-story hotel in downtown Milwaukee on the corner of N. Broadway and E. Michigan Streets. It could accommodate 800 guests and was the second largest hotel in the city. The Milwaukee brick structure was surrounded by an ornate wood cupola and festooned with the Victorian gingerbread cornices, balconies and window framings common at the time. The commission merchants would meet in the evening at his hotel to buy and sell. The hotel had two dozen smaller fires prior to 1883. The hotel staff was instructed not to arouse guests and evacuate them for a "minor" fire. The hotel was sold numerous times and fell into disrepair. Because it lacked ample outside fire escapes it became known as Milwaukee's most notorious firetrap.

It was about 3:30AM on January 10, 1883 when a fire was discovered in the elevator shaft of the Newhall House. There was no house phone system and no local alarm. The first arriving firemen found guests starting to jump from the inferno from their sixth-floor rooms to their deaths. Others were hanging out the windows yelling for help. Flames roared up the wooden elevator shaft filling the building with heat and smoke. Few occupants were able to reach the fire escapes. Some escaped from lower floors using sheets and blankets. Two of the guests rescued from the third floor were the famous midget stage attraction, Gen. Tom Thumb and his wife, who were carried out under a policeman's arm.

No one knows how many people occupied the hotel that morning. The hotel register was never found to determine an exact count. Besides the forty maids, laundresses and kitchen help living on the fifth floor there about 180 guests in the hotel.

A search of the ruins the next day turned up 47 corpses, only four of which were identifiable; some people were believed to be completely incinerated. Officially there were seventy-five listed as dead, forty-three of them unidentified and seven unaccounted for. It is believed that more than 100 people perished. The 20 Catholic victims were buried at Calvary Cemetery and 23 Protestants at Forest Home Cemetery.

George Scheller, proprietor of the Newhall House Bar was arrested 6 days later on a warrant charging him with setting the fire to collect insurance but was later acquitted. A coroner's inquest on February 5 blamed the hotel management for lack of fire escapes and ample exits but a grand jury found no negligence.

Shown here is a personal key tag. It is stamped with the name of "Geo. L. Thomas, (Room) 13, Newhall House, Milwaukee, Wis". It is nickel and measures 31mm x 15mm with a blank back. According to Milwaukee City Directories, Thomas lived in the Newhall House from 1868 - 1871 and was a bookkeeper for the Grover & Baker Sewing Machine Co. Luckily, he was no longer a hotel resident the morning of the fire. He later went to embalmer's school and became an undertaker.

The hotel burned to the ground and the fire remained the deadliest hotel fire in U.S. for many decades. This key tag is a tragic reminder of the conflagration that took place that year. The fire became national news with a sketch of the burning building placed on the front covers of the January 20, 1883 edition of *Leslie's Newspaper* and *Harper's Weekly*.

A Token of Tragedy in Pictures



Newhall House Fire

This sketch of the Newhall House Fire dramatizes the rescue operation illustrating the crowd gathered to watch and firefighters carrying ladders and holding safety nets for people trying to escape the flames.



GEN. TOM THUMB, WIFE AND CHILD

Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel (Published as THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL) - December 16, 1896

GEO. L. THOMAS
UNDERTAKER

467 Milwaukee Street

TELEPHONE 651

Lady Assistant Always in Attendance

ESTABLISHED 1877



October 7, 2018 MNS Show Photos by Paul Kromm



MNS 2018 November 15 Auction

1. 2 Milw. Brewers bank documents, 1977-79, plus two 1999 brass Brewers tokens, SB \$3
2. Lot of 7 Political fantasy Notes, LBJ, Clinton, Gore, Nixon, Dole, etc. SB \$2
3. Lot of 6 better \$2 bills, 2 1953 red seals, 1 1963 red seal, 3 with attached stamps, SB \$14
4. Lot of 6 \$2 bills, 1976 Bicentennial issues, mostly unc condition, SB \$14
5. Bag of 700 wheat cents, includes 11 steel cents, a few early dates SB \$12
6. Lot of 3 different Pres. Donald Trump 1 oz. medals, one silver and two copper, SB \$22
7. One bag of Fed Shreds from Fed. Reserve Bank of Chicago (shredded money)
8. Very attractive Bradford Exchange US Nickel Type set, 4 coins worth \$30, SB \$20
9. 1969 Lunar landing medal, honoring astronauts, SB \$4
10. Milwaukee Palmolive Soap Trade token, ca. 1930s, SB \$1
11. MNS 1986 show sheet of 3 advertising scrip notes, SB \$1
12. Krause Pubs. Numismatic coffee mug, new in box.
13. MNS 50th Ann. octagonal medal 1984
14. Old Milwaukee County Park Employee Badge
15. Official Red Book "Guide Book of Gold Dollars"
16. Milwaukee Eagles Club 25 cent token
17. LaVere Redfield "The Silver Dollar King" book
18. WTMJ Heinie & the Grenadiers (Jack Bundy) 1930's ink blotter
19. Very old Jambor Tool & Stamping Co. Milwaukee Visitor Badge
20. Large 13 inch 1913 Buffalo Nickel wall hanging
21. 2 George Webb 2018 Milw. Brewers Promotion items: Coupon Voucher and Menu
22. 1986 Sears token with Statue of Liberty. Nostalgia item. SB \$1
23. 2013 Bitcoin, SB \$5
24. McDonalds 50th Big Mac coin, SB \$2
25. Dunes \$1000 gambling chip, SB \$1
26. 1953A \$2 red seal US Note near unc, AU lists \$15, SB \$6
27. 11 Wooden nickels, SB \$1
28. Lot of 21 assorted foreign coins
29. ANA 1998 Portland 107th Convention Bronze Medal
30. 5 Wood Coins/Bills, 3 tokens, Sputnik Smithsonian elongated
31. Game of Life New Tyvek Wallet
32. 3 ANA Scrip, 2 Tokens-Medalcraft Mint \$20 & ANA press, Summer Seminar 50th pin
33. Intercept Shield Type Set Album 3 Pages & spacers
34. 2001 Red Book & Blue Book Set
35. Two USA proof sets: 1976 bicentennial, 1988
36. Red plastic turkey token
37. 2 US silver coins: 1941-D Merc. dime, 1942 Wkg. Liberty half, high grade
38. Racine Wisconsin Transit token
39. Encased 1950-D cent, Hughes Apparel, Racine
40. 1992 Proof Olympic half dollar, gymnast
41. C.F.L.I. 65 mm bronze Pres. medal w/ blue ribbon. Believed Central Florida Volunteer's Club
42. Lot of 16 misc. tokens including red Milw 5 cents drink token, Napoleon. Some duplication.
43. Another lot of 16 misc. tokens, including Mequon wood, Red Goose shoes, Bingo. Some duplication.
44. President Ulysses S. Grant Inauguration medal, large bronze, 75mm. High relief. MB \$4.00.
45. Coin bracelet, England. 18 world coins, Silver 1/2 Fr., 1, 2, 5 Fr. Swiss, 5 Fr. France, MB \$10.00